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West Valley City
Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
(801) 963-3336



Fire Safety

RECREATIONAL BURNING

Welcome

Due to the requirements of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Utah State Division of Air Quality, and Salt Lake County, this city in conjunction with other jurisdictions does not allow open burning or issue burn permits for the purpose of burning yard waste and garbage. However, the International Fire Code does allow for some types of Recreational Burning for events such as cooking fires, ambience for gatherings, and training under tight and stringent rules and regulations for the benefit and safety of the Community.

Rules of Safety:

Conditions

- **International Fire Code 307.1.1**
- **Prohibited open burning.** Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

Area

- **International Fire Code 307.4.2**
- **Bonfires.** A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- **Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- **Portable outdoor fireplaces.** Portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet (3048 mm) of a structure or combustible material.



Safety and Equipment

- **International Fire Code 307.5**
- **Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. Not fewer than one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Cause for cancelling the event

- **International Fire Code 307.3**
- **Extinguishment authority.** Where open burning creates or adds to a hazardous situation, or a required permit for open burning has not been obtained, the fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment of the open burning operation.

Information

Prior to the event, it is required that the neighbors be notified of the time and location of the fire event. VECC or Dispatch must be informed of the fire. (801-840-4000). They will require:

- The address of the burn.
- The name of the responsible person on scene.
- The phone number of that responsible person.
- The time the fire is to be ignited and the approximate time of extinguishment.
- Dispatch must be notified when the fire is extinguished.
- VECC may deny or cancel the fire event for cause.

For more information, please reference the 2018 International Fire Code.